

**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BILL ELFO
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-6600

MEMO

To: Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

From: Sheriff Bill Elfo, Director
John Gargett, Deputy Director
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management

Subject: City of Bellingham 800MHz radio cost increase

Date: August 30, 2023

Background and Purpose

As per ILA 202204037, the City of Bellingham gave notice in August of 2022 that they were raising the rates for the radios Whatcom County has on its system. This ILA amendment only documents the rate change that was prescribed in the original agreement. All other parts of the ILA remain in effect.

If you have questions, please contact John Gargett or Robert Greene at 676-6681.



City of Bellingham
Public Works Department

City of Bellingham
Public Works Operation
Communications & Electronics
2221 Pacific St.
Bellingham, WA 98229

August 22, 2022

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Robert Greene, Communications Manager

RE: Subscriber fees for use of City 800mHz Trunked Radio System

Robert,

The interlocal Agreement (C2200406) between the City of Bellingham and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office allows for an annual review of the subscriber rate charged for use of our system. We are required to notify you of any change of rate for the next year by September 1 of the previous year. This letter serves as notification that we intend to increase the subscriber fees for 2023. Please refer to Section 3.1 of that agreement for any clarification.

The initial rate of \$20.00 per month / per radio was a starting place, and a rate I insisted we stick to as it was previously approved by my supervisor and verbally passed on to you as the beginning rate for use of our system.

It has become clear that due to increases in costs of equipment and maintenance on the system, and comparisons to the rates charged by similar private and public systems, we need to introduce an increase in that fee for 2023. We have decided to implement an increase of 25% for 2023; the maximum increase allowed by the ILA. The new rate for 2023 will be \$25 per radio / per month.

That amount will be invoiced to you in January for the 21 radios in use. Between now and then, our contracts staff will be in touch with an amended interlocal agreement for your signature. As we are amending the document, we would like to take the opportunity to update any contact information that may be out of date. Please check that information on the attached copy of the ILA and let me know if any updates are required.

Also attached please find a current inventory of your subscribers as listed in the systems database. Please work with your radio service vendor to validate its accuracy. We can make any required adjustments prior to billing in January 2023.

Engineering
104 W. Magnolia Street, Suite 109
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 778-7900
Fax: (360) 778-7901
TTY: (360) 778-8382
pw@cob.org

Natural Resources
Physical: 2200 Nevada Street
Mailing: 2221 Pacific Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
(360) 778-7800
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Operations
2221 Pacific Street
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(360) 778-7700
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Efforts are still underway to develop a governance model that will bring the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, and Whatcom Transit Authority under one agreement to combine resources for the development of a county-wide radios system that will serve all of public safety. This is envisioned as an expansion of the current City system you are operating on today, and will add more sites resulting in better coverage, capacity, and interoperability for all users. It is my hope that we will see significant progress in this effort over the next year.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns or questions about the system, its performance, or any other questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William C. Hanes".

William Hanes
Communications Manager
City of Bellingham Communications & Electronics
whanes@cob.org
360-778-7822